

# Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015

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## No sunshine, but lots of carnival spirit

The rain couldn't stop the carnival spirit bubbling up all over town on Saturday. Dancers, musicians and fancy dress lovers from all over town took part in the parade which set off from Abington Park in steady rain. Event co-ordinator Morcea Walker said: "Although the weather tried to dampen things there was a buzz and a lovely atmosphere." See more pictures online at northamptonchron.co.uk and in this Thursday's Chronicle & Echo.

# HOMELESS SHAME

## NORTHANTS FIGURES AMONG THE WORST IN COUNTRY CLAIMS REPORT

**BY NICK SPOORS**  
Chief reporter  
nick.spoors@press.co.uk

Nearly 550 people in Northampton are registered as statutory homeless after losing their home or being evicted, latest figures show.

The statistics show that the town is far worse than many places in England, with almost triple the national average of statutory homeless people, adjusted for population size.

The Hope Centre, in Campbell Street, which deals with about 120 homeless people each day, said the statistics,

although based on data from 2013, ring true and may be a consequence of Northampton being a large town. Mary Crook, a fundraising officer, said: "I think often it is a result of being a big town, people get drawn here looking for work, which is either short term or they don't find anything."

Although regulations have tightened recently, Mrs Crook said historical irresponsible lending by some banks has led to some of the statutory homelessness, where a build-up of debt caused people to default on their rent or mortgage.

Northampton Borough Council is responsible for

helping people who have no permanent address find accommodation in temporary private flats or houses.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Northampton Borough Council cabinet member for housing, said a great deal of work has been carried out since 2013 to combat home-

lessness in Northampton.

A drop-in housing service at the Guildhall, means advice can be given without an appointment. More officers are available to work with homeless people from the moment they register. And council-backed bonds also help people without a deposit.

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- Young Achiever
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# 'Clarence the Dragon' Ray is a donor match

**By PAUL LYNCH**  
Reporter  
paul.lynch@jpress.co.uk

**A Northampton mascot best known as Clarence the Dragon is calling on others to sign a stem cell register, after he was found to be a donor match.**

A year ago Cobblers mascot Ray Lucas, signed up to the Anthony Nolan register at the Race for Life event at Abington Park.

The Duston man, 22, filled out a form and a 'spit kit' at a stall being run by Northampton mum Kaisha Morris, who is desperately searching for a stem cell donor for her son Joey, who has a rare blood condition and needs a bone marrow donor.

Shortly after the event, Mr Lucas got a call from Anthony Nolan to say he had been found as a match for someone in desperate need of a transplant.

Twelve months later, he is now calling on others to join the stem cell register to mark the return of the Abington Park for the Race For Life on Sunday.

Mr Lucas said: "Filling out a form and giving a bit of spit was the least I could do.

"It was a no-brainer and to be honest I didn't think anything would come of it, but I thought it was better to be on the register and at least have that chance."

Mr Lucas went on to donate his stem cells in April in London.

"It was honestly pain free and I was so well looked after



Ray Lucas was found to be a match for someone in need of a transplant.

by the nurses," he added.

"My mum and dad were there with me so it was a proud moment. I'd like to say thank you to Kaisha Morris as she

is the reason I've potentially saved a stranger's life. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be on the register because I didn't know about it."

Mr Lucas beat the one in 1,200 odds of being called up to donate.

To donate, visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org)

## Joey still in desperate need of a donor



Joey Ziadi, who has a blood disorder and is searching for a donor

THE search for a match for Joey Ziadi, who suffers from a blood disorder called Diamond Blackfan Anaemia, is still on-going.

Since Joey's diagnosis, the family have campaigned to recruit more young people to the register, hosting several events around Northampton.

They had their efforts recognised by Anthony Nolan winning the 'Recruiter of the Year' award at the Anthony Nolan Supporter Awards at the House of Commons.

Kaisha Morris, Joey's mum, said: "We're still looking for

a match for Joey and there are so many other families like us.

"We need more young people like Ray to come down to our recruitment tent and sign up. Who knows? You could save someone's life, just like Ray did."

Ray helped team GIJoey sign up more potential life savers at the Race for Life event at Abington Park on Sunday.

If you are aged between 16 and 30 and in good health you can also sign up online at [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org).

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# Bid to recruit 40 new UK nurses

**By Nick Spoons**  
Chief reporter  
nick.spoons@jpress.co.uk

**Bosses at Northampton General Hospital are poised to recruit nurses from the UK, the Philippines and India in an attempt to improve care on its wards.**

NGH has a number of local schemes, such as partnerships with the University of Northampton to recruit 40 new UK nurses, mainly to replace those retiring or moving on.

But it is also paying an agency that is in the process of interviewing in Asia and has been tasked with finding 100 overseas nurses for the hospital, including 60 Indian and Filipino nurses.

They will be used to drastically reduce NGH's costly reliance on agency and bank nurses, but Rachel Corser, in-



Northampton General Hospital

terim director of nursing, said the real motivation behind the jobs push is to improve care.

She said: "This recruitment campaign is a 'big bang' approach to make an impact and it is all driven by the quality of patient care.

"Yes, we will save money but it's really about replacing temporary staff with people who want to be permanent members of the team and buy into giving the best pos-

sible care."

The new overseas recruits will be supported by a role created last month whose job it will be to help the new additions fit into life in the UK.

Mrs Corser said the lack of nurses being trained across the UK has made a search abroad a necessity, and admitted the hospital would rather employ local staff nurses if they were available.

After a male nurse from the Philippines was last month convicted of poisoning and killing two patients in Stockport, there was concern in the UK media about widespread fake documentation used to secure jobs in this country.

But NGH said the agency is expert at making the required checks and uses qualified nurses to help vet foreign candidates.

It also said a minimum standard of English must be attained before they are offered a job.

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John Partridge who appears as Prince Charming in Cinderella

# Soap star John signs for panto

By STEVE MILLS  
steve.mills@jpress.co.uk  
@EntsSteve1

**Former Eastenders star John Partridge has been cast in pantomime coming to the Royal and Derngate in Northampton.**

Best known for playing Christian Clarke in the soap, he was announced as playing Prince Charming in Cinderella.

He is no stranger to the stage having appeared in many West End roles throughout his career. But this show will mark a first for the actor.

John said: "I have never performed at Northampton but I saw some friends at the weekend, one of whom has just done a touring production at Northampton and said a lot of complimentary words about the theatre. I am looking forward to bringing the show to Northampton."

Appearing alongside John is Sid Sloane as Dandini who

has been a presenter on CBeebies for the past 11 years. Danny Posthill, who was a finalist on the recent series of Britain's Got Talent plays Buttons. A semi finalist in the same series of the talent show, Alison Jear, will be playing the Fairy Godmother.

John added: "I have worked with Alison before and she will be great in the show."

"We have got people from all of the talent shows and it is a really fantastic cast. I can't wait to perform it."

Cinderella is staged by Qdos Entertainment, the world's biggest pantomime producer and the team behind last year's smash-hit production of Peter Pan. Executive producer of Cinderella Jonathan Kiley said: "We are delighted that John will be playing Prince Charming for us this Christmas and joined by Sid, Danny and Alison. With such a fantastic line-up in place Cinderella promises to be another unmissable Royal and Derngate pantomime."

GET IN TOUCH



Keep in touch by following the Chron on Twitter @ChronandEcho

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for.

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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# Youngster raises £1,000 in a week

**By FRANCESCA GOSLING**  
Reporter  
francesca.gosling@jpress.co.uk

**An 11-year-old Northampton girl has raised £1,000 in a single week with her plan to cut her hair for charity after a number of professional footballers spotted her appeal.**

Imogen Davies, of Highdown Close in Hunsbury Hill, will next month be cutting off her long blonde locks for the Little Princess Trust to make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

But the keen football-player's online appeal for sponsors received a huge boost after it was retweeted by AFC Wimbledon striker Adebayo Akinfenwa to his 150,000 followers, leading to a number of pledges by women footballers.

Imogen, who also plays as goalkeeper for Welland Valley Girls under 11s and Northampton Town PDC, has also secured several donations from Cobblers fans after the club also helped to share her campaign, bringing her total up to more than £1,000.

She decided to make the bold move after winning the title of May Queen at her school, Rothersthorpe Primary School.

She said: "I know that my hair will grow back. Poorly children deserve to have hair too. I was recently crowned May Queen at my school and everyone said that I looked like



Former Cobblers player, Adebayo Akinfenwa, has supported the appeal

a Princess. That's why I am donating my hair so that a child fighting cancer can look like a Prince or Princess too."

The big haircut will take place in early July, after she breaks up for the summer holiday, and all the proceeds from the event, as well as Imogen's hair will go directly to the charity.

Her father Tony said: "The amount of support has been unexpected and she is now beyond her target within eight days. She's a pretty caring and sensitive soul."

To add your donation, visit Imogen's Just Giving page on: [www.justgiving.com/ImogenRDavies](http://www.justgiving.com/ImogenRDavies)



Imogen Davies, 11, is cutting off her hair to raise awareness of the Little Princess Trust.

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# Facebook helps find 'buried note' writer

BY PAUL LYNCH  
Reporter  
paul.lynych@jpress.co.uk

A girl's childhood note written in 1994 and buried in her grandmother's garden in Northampton is to be returned to her 21 years later thanks of the power of social media.

Jenna Kennedy, who is now 29 and living in Southend, Essex, wrote the note on September 4, 1994, sealed it in a jam jar and buried it at her grandmother's house in Woodside Way, Kings Heath.

The then nine-year-old, who had been inspired by a project she was completing at school on time capsules, drew a picture of her self in biro and wrote: "Hello my name is Jenna Kennedy."

"I won't write my address because I might have moved houses."

But last week when the current occupant of the house,



Jenna Kennedy (inset) and the letter and the drawing of herself that she buried in the ground.

Steven Roche, was digging in his back garden, he spotted the jam jar and note.

Mr Roche put out an appeal on Facebook to see if he could get in touch with the author of the time-sealed scribbles.

And after his posting was shared more than 100 times on the social networking site, an old school friend recog-

nised Jenna's handiwork.

Miss Kennedy, who is now a chemistry teacher, says she is thrilled at the prospect of being reunited with her letter.

"I was just really, really shocked."

"I didn't think I would see this again."

She added: "It just goes to show the power of Facebook."

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# Teen 'hero' reunites owner with lost dog

By **FRANCESCA GOSLING**  
Reporter  
francesca.gosling@jpress.co.uk

**A teenager who reunited a woman with her poodle after it went missing in Northampton two weeks ago has been named a "hero" and "a real gentleman".**

Belinda Collis Hill was distraught when her six-year-old brown 'toy' poodle Faith ran away in Grange Park on May 23.

But last Thursday (June 4) after a 12-day search, Faith was returned safe and sound by a teenage boy.

Mrs Collis Hill, from High Street, Roade, said: "I'm still in a happy haze. I got the phone call in the afternoon and was shaking so much that he said he would bring her to me.

"He came trotting up the street with her, still on her lead, and she jumped into my arms.



**Belinda Collis Hill has been reunited with her pet poodle, Faith, after a widespread appeal around Northampton, including in the Chronicle & Echo**

"I completely collapsed with her onto the pavement." The teenager, Callum Calver, managed to catch Faith

near the park in Rickyard Walk after she ran away from a cyclist who had recognised and tried to catch her.

She first disappeared when Mrs Collis Hill was walking her and her twin Buffy in the park and a bigger dog jumped out at them.

Mrs Collis Hill said: "Faith is very timid and she just bolted. I tried to chase her but she was gone.

She said: "So many people got involved to help and I cannot thank them enough.

"A lady came from Kent with tracker dogs to help follow Faith and even stayed over night in a camper van, and Northampton Lost & Found got involved too, among others.

"But Callum was the real hero.

"Whatever people say about teenagers, he was a lovely young man and a real gentleman.

"Grange Park is a wonderful place with a community of wonderful people."

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Classic Rover 75 Diesel estate, Sept 2002. Gold with black cloth trim. Only 1 owner, since purchase from Rover fleet in Banbury. F/S/H and receipts, 170,000 careful miles. MOT Aug 20th 2015. Some small paint knocks as may be expected for the age. Owner selling as auto trans now preferred View South Northants. . £950 ono **Tel:01327 260303 - 07836502756**

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**2003** **£1,175 ono**

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5 door hatchback, petrol, blue, 2011, 14000 miles, 5 seats, Some scratches & minor body hense price. £5600 ono (Pic For Ref Only) **Tel:01604 740146**

**2011** **£5600 ono**

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5 door hatchback, turbo diesel, red, 5 seats, under £30 Tax a year. (Pic For Ref Only) **Tel: 01604 644089 or 07808839317**

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**FORD FOCUS TITANIUM TDCI 109**



11, 1.6, 55000 miles, silver, diesel, 2011, MOT, DAB radio, auto lights / wipers key less entry, FSH, alloy wheels, heated front seats, heated screens , auto dimming mirror , immaculate inside and out, push button start £30 per year road tax... £6,500 ono **Tel: 07742616918**

**2011** **£6,500 ono**



**FORD FOCUS CL** 04, 1.4, 85000 miles, grey, petrol, 2004, New Cam belt CD player, MOT 1/7, Tax until 31/7. £395 ono **Tel: 07771526529**

**2004** **£995 ono**

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62, 1.4, 25,600 miles, white, petrol, 2012, Bluetooth, USB point, 16" 15-spoke alloy wheels, Power foldable door mirrors, automatic headlights, rain sensing wipers, rear privacy glass, rear parking sensors., £7,995 ono **Tel: 07859039425**

**2012** **£7,995 ono**



**FORD ESCORT 55 D X** 1.8, 95000 miles, white, diesel, 2000, MOT November 2015. Lots of History. £795 ono **Tel: 0787386723**

**2000** **£795 ono**

**PEUGEOT 307 1.6**



5 door hatchback, petrol, silver, 2001, 72,345 miles, 5 seats, Good condition, 12 months MOT, Sensor., (Pic for ref only) **Tel:07758 240269**

**2001** **£825 ono**

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC 90 TDCI**



10, 1.6, 89300 miles, black, diesel, 2010, 2 Owners, Full service history, MOT 31/03/2016, Good Condition, USB, Bluetooth and City Pack, Privacy Glass, Trip Computer, 65.4 MPG Combined, Electric Front windows, A/C, Central locking, £20 Car Tax. £4,495 ono **Tel: 07943862957**

**2010** **£4,495 ono**

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**2003** **£695 ono**

**RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE 16V**

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**2002** **£1995 ono**

**TALBOT EXPRESS 1300 P**



h, 2.0, 81,000 miles, white, petrol, 1990, 4 Birth, shower, toilet, cooker, microwave, fridge, hot water, TV/DVD, hook up, bike rack, 12 months MOT, VGC, Drives well.. £4,500 ono **Tel: 07968227609**

**1990** **£4,500 ono**

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**MG ZT+ 2.0**



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**2003** **£950 ono**

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53, 1.4, 161000 miles, silver, diesel, 2003, Reliable, £30 tax, 1 get 55mpg, 1 former owner. Selling as I have bought a bigger car.. £450 ono **Tel: 01858540223**

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2007 **£2,300**

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# SPORT

## Ripley demands repeat in T20

### Northants head coach feels big Yorkshire win has set the standard

#### CRICKET

**Northants Steelbacks head coach David Ripley has challenged his players to play like that every week after they thrashed Yorkshire in the Nat-West T20 Blast clash at Headingley on Sunday.**

The Steelbacks claimed an excellent eight-wicket win in a rain-affected match that was reduced to 12 overs per side.

Shahid Afridi took three for 15 and Azharullah two for 24 as Yorkshire were limited to 82 for seven before the Steelbacks charged home.

Richard Levi's 35 and Ben Duckett's unbeaten 31 proved key as the away side claimed the victory in just 7.4 overs.

And Ripley said: "We played really well. From the first ball to the last, we played good, aggressive cricket.

"We hit the pitch hard with the ball, we took our catches against a team full of international players.

"It was a really top performance and it would be great to play like that every week."

The Steelbacks got quick wickets at the start of the Yorkshire innings, with star names Aaron Finch and Glenn

Maxwell dismissed for five and two respectively.

"They've got world class T20 players in their team and it's how well we played right through the game," Ripley added.

"Although it was only a 12-over match, we almost dominated it in its entirety and that doesn't happen very often in this format.

"It was a really good performance from us."

Meanwhile, Northants coach David Ripley is hopeful that wicket-keeper Adam Rossington will be fit in time for the club's next LV= Championship match against Kent, starting on Saturday.

But it looks as if opening batsman Stephen Peters faces a lengthier spell on the sidelines after cracking a bone in his thumb.

Rossington has been out of action since suffering a quad muscle injury in the recent Championship defeat at Glamorgan, and will be missing again for Friday night's NatWest T20 Blast home match against Lancashire.

Peters on the other hand is set to be out of action until July after suffering a broken thumb in recent draw with Essex at the County Ground.



**BIG HITTER** Richard Levi smashed a superb 35 as Northants Steelbacks cruised to victory at Yorkshire Vikings on Sunday

## Foden's confident he can be fit for World Cup bid

**BEN FODEN** believes he can be fit in time for England's first World Cup warm-up match on August 15.

The Saints star has been out of action since rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the Champions Cup win at Ospreys in January.

But, a notoriously fast healer, the full-back is recovering well, with Saints forwards coach Doran West admitting Foden is 'already up and running faster than a lot of people in the game'.

That means the 29-year-

#### RUGBY UNION

old is on track to make England's game against France at Twickenham in two months' time.

The Red Rose face the French on back-to-back weekends and Ireland on September 5 before their World Cup campaign gets underway against Fiji on September 18.

And though he wasn't named in England's initial 50-man World Cup training squad, head coach Stuart

Lancaster stressed that Foden remains under consideration.

"My rehab has gone really well and my knee feels really strong," Foden said. "They told me an ACL would be between six to nine months and that left me with a race against time to ensure that I was on the side of six months rather than nine.

"Luckily for me I think the injury was quite clean so I don't think there was any other damage to any other ligaments. The operation

went well and I have been able to get on with things quickly.

"I started running two weeks ago and the next two or three weeks are about getting me back to full running level and at a level where if I do go into camp I can train and do everything all the other lads are doing.

"The benefit for me is that the start of the camp will effectively be like a pre-season, so there will not be that much rugby or contact. It will be more about fitness,

running and getting strong, which is primarily what I am doing anyway, so hopefully that will work in my favour.

"It is nice to be name-checked by Stuart. I had a good phone call with Andy Farrell before Stuart announced the squad and I was saying that I was really confident and feeling good that I could get to a level where I need to be to be called into the squad.

"I know that I need to be fit by Aug 15 for that first warm-up game because

they are going to want to see me play and see that I am at the level I was before I got injured."

Foden, who will aim to challenge the likes of Mike Brown and Alex Goode for the England 15 shirt, has been working with Bill Knowles, one of the world's leading knee specialists.

Knowles' previous clients include Jonny Wilkinson and Tiger Woods and his two-week camp with the Saints player in Philadelphia has clearly paid dividends.